



REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments made to the specification and claims and the remarks made herein.

Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 8-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hamilton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,392,993 B1). The Office Action further states that claims 4 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 8-12 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly the above rejection is now moot. Claim 4 and 7 have been amended as indicated by the Examiner. No new matter has been added. Claims 4-5 and 7-8 are pending.

Claims 6-8 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for not particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular the term "it" has been replaced with "slave station", as amended above to more distinctly claim the invention where indicated by the Examiner. Claims 1-12 also stand objected to because of informalities.

Applicant wishes to thank the examiner for his observation regarding the form of the claims and has made amendments to the claims as suggested by the examiner.

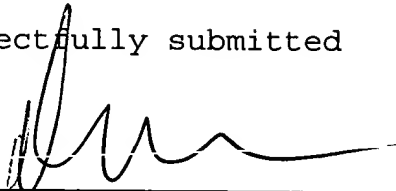
Having amended the claims as suggested by the examiner, applicant submits that the reason for the examiner's rejection of the claims has been overcome and can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendment and allowance of the claims.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claim discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

The applicants submit that the claims, as they now stand, fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112 and 102. In view of the foregoing amendments and

remarks, favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted

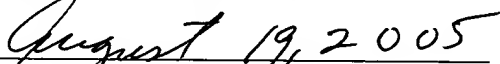
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